

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 EURE-00 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8131

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USIA WASHDC

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CINCEUR FOR POLAN

USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS, IOP/M

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SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - DEC 23

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET PRESS HIGHLIGHTS:

--IZVESTIYA SAYS THAT VOICE OF AMERICA'S PORTRAYAL OF THE U.S. IS "AS FAR FROM THE SEVERE REALITY AS EARTH IS FROM HEAVEN" (SEPTTEL); AND IZVESTIYA FOREIGN AFFAIRS EDITOR CRITICIZES U.S. ACTIONS AT CIEC;

--HUNGARY'S FOREIGN MINISTER PUJA RETURNS TO MOSCOW \$3: 22 FOR FURTHER TALKS WITH GROMYKO ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION, AMONG OTHER TOPICS;

-- A JORDANIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR TALKS WITH MFA;

-- A SOVIET -IRAQI ECONOMIC AGREEMENT IS SIGNED;

-- AND PRAVDA CONTENDS THAT "IMPERIALIST CIRCLES" ARE BEHIND THE ATTACK ON OPEC IN VIENNA. END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. AN IZVESTIYA SIGNED COMMENTARY ("ON THE WRONG WAVE LENGTH") SAYS THE VOICE OF AMERICA "PERSISTENTLY BUILDS MYTHS ABOUT AN AMERICA THAT DOES NOT EXIST", AND EXPLAINS IN DETAIL U.S. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. THE COMMENTARY DWELLS ON THE ALLEGED PLIGHT OF "SECOND CLASS CITIZENS" SUCH AS CHICANOS AND INDIANS, AND ON UNEMPLOYMENT AND HIGH TAX BURDENS. IZVESTIYA FOREIGN AFFAIRS EDITOR GRIGOR'YANTS IN COMMENTARY ON CIEC CRITICIZES PERSISTENT ATTEMPTS BY THE "AMERICAN DELEGATION" TO DIVIDE THE OIL STATES FROM THE REST OF THE THIRD WORLD. GRIGOR'YANTS INSISTS EFFECT WAS OPPOSITE FROM THAT DESIRED, HOWEVER, FOR U.S. PRESSURE SIMPLY UNITED THESE STATES. SIGNED COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA PREACHES AT LENGTH ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, UNEMPLOYMENT IN WEST. COMMENT. IT IS PLAUSIBLE TO READ RECENT INCREASE IN ALREADY CONSIDERABLE MEDIA EMPHASIS ON WESTERN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AS CHARACTERISTIC COUNTER-BALANCE TO THE SOVIET UNION'S OWN RELATIVELY WELL-PUBLICIZED ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. END COMMENT.

3. HUNGARY. HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PUJA ARRIVED MOSCOW DEC 22 ON A "FRIENDLY VISIT." DURING NEGOTIATIONS WITH GROMYKO "FURTHER STEPS TOWARD DEEPENING THE PROCESS OF RELAXATION OF TENSIONS IN EUROPE WERE EXAMINED IN LIGHT OF AGREEMENTS REACHED DURING THE MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE SOCIALIST STATES IN MOSCOW (DEC 15-16)." LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GROMYKO'S SPEECH AT DINNER FOR PUJA DWELLS, ACCORDING TO THE PRAVDA REPORT, ON SUCCESS IN BUILDING SOCIALISM IN BOTH STATES; ON THE EFFICACY OF, AND NEED FOR, COORDINATED FOREIGN POLICY ACTIONS; AND CSCE IMPLEMENTATION. GROMYKO SAID THAT "THE SOVIET UNION FULLY INTENDS TO MOVE FORWARD THE PROCESS OF DETENTE AND DO OUR FULL PART, THROUGH PRACTICAL MEASURES, TO PROMOTE COOPERATION IN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE." IN ANSWERING SPEECH, PUJA SAID DETENTE IS THE "MAIN TENDENCY" IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND THE TASK IS NOW TO DOUBLE

EFFORTS "TO DEEPEN THE PROCESS AND RESIST OPPOSITION FROM ITS ENEMIES, INCLUDING MAOISTS." COMMENT. WE ASSUME FROM THE SPEECHES AS REPORTED IN PRAVDA THAT THE TALKS COVERED ECONOMIC COOPERATION, POSSIBLY IN GUISE OF "PRACTICAL MEASURES" ON BASKET II ITEMS ALONG LINES OF BREZHNEV'S WARSAW PROPOSALS FOR EUROPEAN CONFERENCES ON ENERGY, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT, AS WELL AS MBFR. END COMMENT.

4. JORDAN. PRAVDA ANNOUNCED ARRIVAL DEC 22 OF JORDANIAN OFFICIAL DELEGATION HEADED BY SENATOR ABDUL MOHEIM RIF'AI "FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH MFA ON QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST." DELEGATION WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY GROMYKO'S FIRST DEPUTY KUZNETSOV.

5. IRAQ. IZVESTIYA REPORTS SIGNATURE IN BAGHDAD OF AN IRAQI-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION BY THE HEAD OF THE SOVIET STATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS SKACHKOV AND IRAQI MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AL-JAZRAWI. NO FURTHER DETAILS ARE GIVEN.

6. OPEC. PRAVDA'S REPORT ON THE EVENTS DURING THE OPEC CONFERENCE IN VIENNA PREDICTABLY PLAYS BACK PLO DENIAL OF INVOLVEMENT AND ACCUSATION THAT "IMPERIALIST CIRCLES" WERE BEHIND THE ATTACK. PRAVDA ALSO QUOTES TEHRAN'S ETTELAAT THAT LINKS BETWEEN KIDNAPPERS AND WESTERN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES WILL EVENTUALLY COME TO LIGHT. STOESSEL

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